

Washington State Patrol

Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: August 15, 2006
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WSP Prepared for Busy Weekend in Whitman County

The Washington State Patrol will have all available troopers working this weekend with multiple large events scheduled in Whitman County.

This weekend marks the return of students to the Washington State University Campus in Pullman. There are several events scheduled on or near the WSU campus for students as they return. In addition, Pullman is hosting its annual Lentil Festival where 20,000 people are expected to attend. Troopers from Colfax, Kennewick, Ritzville and Moses Lake will be working to ensure WSU students return safely to Pullman. Motorists should expect to see a strong WSP presence on all major state highways leading into the Pullman area from as far west as the Columbia River.

Spokane troopers will also be busy ensuring that this year's motorcycle rally in Rosalia is a safe event for everyone. Troopers will be utilizing WSP aircraft, motorcycle troopers as well as marked and unmarked patrol vehicles to help motorcyclists and students navigate State Route 195 from Spokane to Pullman. Crowds in Rosalia have been estimated to reach 20,000 people for the three day event. Last year approximately 12,000 people attended the one day rally.

In 2005 WSP troopers made 555 violator contacts and issued 316 tickets during this weekend. Troopers also made 24 criminal arrests including 15 DUI arrests, one minor in possession arrest and seven drug arrests. Out of the 316 tickets that were written 268 were for speeding, 10 for seat belt violations, 32 for aggressive driving and one misdemeanor warrant arrest. The hard work by all involved resulted in only one minor injury motorcycle collision being investigated by the WSP last year.

The WSP will be setting up a unified command post at the Rosalia DOT shed. The command post will provide communications and coordination between the WSP, Whitman County Sheriff's office and the Rosalia Town Marshall. The WSP's Mobile Impaired Driving Unit Command/DUI vehicle will be present at the command post for the entire weekend. This vehicle will be staffed with two troopers during the overnight hours to help process people arrested for DUI.

The WSP would like to remind all motorists to plan ahead and prepare for heavy traffic flows throughout the weekend. Drivers should plan ahead and have a designated driver if they plan on drinking. Troopers will have zero tolerance for driver found driving impaired. It is the WSP's goal to have another safe and collision free weekend.

MEDIA RIDE ALONGS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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